



ALAMEDA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Making Conservation Happen in Alameda County

3585 GREENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 2
LIVERMORE, CA 94550
www.acrcd.org

PHONE: 925-371-0154
FAX: 925-371-0155

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Conference Call: 480-660-5318 Enter 331576

4:00 PM Tuesday, August 16, 2022 in preparation for August 22, 2022 Board Meeting

Next Month's Conservation Committee Meeting: September 20, 2022 for Board Meeting: September 26, 2022

MEETING AGENDA

Updates:

- Fee for service opportunities through our Voluntary Local Program (VLP) for pond permitting (Ian Howell)

Discussion Items:

Grant opportunities

- Ecosystem services planning project through a grant from [California Resilience Challenge](#). See attachment for one page project description (Katherine Boxer)
 - Discussion of ecosystem services program area, proposed partners for the planning grant.

Grant page: [Home - California Resilience Challenge \(resilientcal.org\)](http://resilientcal.org)

Background: Agricultural land, including ranches, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and fruit and vegetable farms, both affect and are affected by climate change. Farms and ranches can be severely impacted by chaotic weather including heat waves, storms and drought. At the same time, some agricultural practices can be polluting and cause GHG emissions that can make climate change worse.

But not all agricultural practices are detrimental to the environment. Some agricultural practices have been shown to benefit groundwater recharge, provide wildlife habitat and even sequester carbon. We can build climate resiliency and mitigate future climate change by considering the ecosystem services that are currently provided by agriculture as well as the possible future ecosystem benefits the land could provide given the appropriate stewardship conditions. The problem is that many farmers and ranchers operate on very marginal profits and have limited ability to implement more ecologically favorable practices.

What's needed is a straightforward system for improving land stewardship in ways that maximize ecosystem services while at the same time minimizing invasiveness and burdens to a farmer or rancher.

Purpose of the project: Create a diverse working group to explore the possibility of payments for ecosystem services in Alameda County as a model that could be replicated in other areas.

Goals of the project: To bring together a group of stakeholders to determine the feasibility of payments of ecosystem services to farmers in Alameda County. The working groups would consider:

1. how a system might operate
2. what ecosystem services are most critical to Alameda County
3. how much should be paid for the services – both payments to implement new or maintain ongoing services [will likely require a consultant to do calculations]
4. the organization(s) through which a payments for ecosystem services program could be implemented / administered, and
5. options for how to pay for the services.

Possible collaborators or stakeholders:

- Academics: UC Berkely, UC Davis
- Ag services providers: UCCE / UCANR, NRCS, ACRCD
- Farmers / Ranchers: urban and rural community members, cattlemen's association, 4-H, beginning farmers, etc.
- Water providers: Zone 7, Dublin San Ramon Services District, Alameda County Water District
- Consultants: to quantify ecosystem services, experts in ecosystem services / traditional ecological knowledge (e.g., Muwekma Ohlone)